

# École St. Joseph's A. McKay Elementary School



## January Newsletter

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you had a great holiday season. Thank you all for your attendance at our winter concert, a BIG thank you to Mr. O'Leary and all our students and staff for a delightful concert. Thank you to our Art teacher, Mrs. Gibbon, and students, for the set design and decorations, and thank you to Ms. Mantin our band teacher and Ms. Kall our strings teacher.

### Safe-Arrival

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason please call our Safe-Arrival line at 902-493-6180. If your child arrives after the attendance has been taken, they must check in at the office so we can avoid unnecessary calls. **For safety reasons, adults who come to SJAM during the day need to check-in at the office upon arrival.** If you want to meet with a teacher, please contact them ahead of time to set up a time that is mutually agreeable. Thank you.

### SJAM School Guidance

Dear SJAM Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is John Moshett and I joined the St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay staff as the Guidance Counselor at the beginning of December. I am looking forward to becoming a part of the school and community! I have spent the last few weeks meeting with the students here and they truly are incredible kids.

As a Guidance Counselor, my primary responsibility is to promote the personal, academic, and social development of all students. I look forward to offering support to the students, staff, families and community.

As the Counselor, I have the privilege to work with every single student in the school. I plan on working with students at the classroom level, small group level, as well as at the short-term individual counseling level. I will also be meeting with parents, collaborating with teachers and staff, and consulting with community organizations to benefit and meet the needs of the St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay students.

Please feel free to call me, or stop in so that we can meet face to face. I can be reached by email at [JMoshett@hrsb.ca](mailto:JMoshett@hrsb.ca) or by phone at (902) 493-5180. I am at SJAM on Monday, Tuesday & Friday. I'm excited to be here and I look forward to getting to know you and your children!

All the best, John Moshett

### Reminders:

#### January 10

SAC Meets at 5:30

Home & School Meets @6:30

### Did you know?

SJAM has an account at Tanner's Recycling. You can drop your recyclables off at any time and credit them to the Home & School Account


We serve breakfast every day. Students can choose from a variety of grab and go snacks available in their classrooms throughout the morning.

Principal – Natalie Hagerty  
Vice Principal – Amy Hunt  
Administrative Assistant – Barb Dewar

5389 Russell St.  
Halifax, NS B3K 1W8

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Safe Arrival – 902-493-6180  
Fax – 902-493-5186

Website – [sjam.ednet.ns.ca](http://sjam.ednet.ns.ca)  
Email – [sjam@hrsb.ca](mailto:sjam@hrsb.ca)

Follow us on Twitter   
@SJAMSchool



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### Hot Lunch Program

We are pleased to partner with Subway and Shadia's in the neighbourhood to offer pre-ordered lunch for those students registered in the SJAM school based lunch program. Subway orders will be delivered from Monday, January 8- Monday, March 5 and pizza orders be arriving Friday, January 5- Friday March 2. We will place one last order in late February for orders between March and June.

### Guidelines for School and/or Bus Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather

Student safety is the first priority of the *Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB)* when making school cancellation decisions. HRSB staff begins to gather information from various sources beginning at 4:30 am. Staff consults with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff on road conditions, local weather services, and Stock Transportation. By 5:30 am, staff makes a recommendation to the Superintendent based on the information gathered. If it is safe to have students on the roads and sidewalks, then schools will be open. If not, all or some schools may be closed depending on the weather and road conditions in different areas of the board.

Parents/ guardians; winter is coming; do you have a childcare plan in place in the event of a school closure? Do you know what *Family of Schools* your child's school belongs to? Parents/ guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.

For **full day closures** of all or some schools, the decision will be announced as close to 6:00 AM as possible. Announcements will be:

- Posted on the HRSB's website ([www.hrsb.ca](http://www.hrsb.ca));
- Posted on the HRSB's Twitter account (HRSB\_Official);
- Recorded on the HRSB's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
- Shared with subscribers to the board's email and text notification system; and
- Communicated to local media outlets.

If conditions deteriorate throughout the day, the Superintendent may **close schools early** when weather or road conditions are considered to be a threat to the safety of students. In the event of an **early school closure**, the announcement will be made by 11 am. School busses will be dispatched to schools **two hours** earlier than their normal regularly scheduled pick-up for the

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afternoon dismissal, **walking students** will be dismissed at the start of their regular lunch time.



**NEW!** On school days when weather conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time, but it is predicted that conditions will improve, a **2 hour delayed opening** may be considered. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time.

Delayed opening may also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening.

In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:

- School opening will be delayed 2 hours
- School bus pick up times will be delayed 2 hours
- Excel child care will be cancelled for the morning only
- Pre-Primary opening will be delayed 2 hours
- Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their timetables.
- Lunch times will not change
- Afternoon class schedules will not change
- Dismissal time will not change.

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### Life-Threatening Allergies

We have several students who have life-threatening allergies to peanuts and eggs. We ask that parents avoid sending things containing nuts and nut products. We are also a scent smart school and encourage visitors to avoid wearing strong scents when at school.

### Lunch Monitors

We are currently recruiting for casual staff to work as Lunch Monitors. The Lunch Monitor oversees students in a variety of settings including the classroom, lunch area, and outside play areas. This is a paid position and the hours are from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you think you might like to earn a little extra money and help out at our school at lunchtime, please call the school at 902-493-5180.

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